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SUBJECT: DELIVERY OF DEMARCHE ON U.S. OBJECTIVES FOR THE
AD-HOC LIAISON COMMITTEE MEETING, JUNE 8

REF: STATE 55527

¶1. (SBU) Mission delivered reftel demarche to officials who cover the Middle East at the EU Council, European Commission, and Czech Mission (the current EU presidency). According to the director for Middle East affairs at the Council, the upcoming Ad-Hoc Liaison Committee (AHLC) meeting was discussed at the June 3 Middle East working group, without significant conclusions. He noted that one problem for the EU in approaching the meeting is that there is not "unified participation" by the EU. With the Commission and a few individual member states participating in their own right, it makes it difficult to have a common position. He noted that EU funds for Palestinian assistance are already obligated for this year. He said there is a growing unwillingness in the EU to do more, with member states wanting to see other donors (i.e., Arab states) come forward with assistance. The EU will use the AHLC meeting to call for others to step up to the plate. On the other hand, our contact said the EU will "bang on the table" to call on Israel to allow access to Gaza so that reconstruction and other assistance can go forward.

¶2. (SBU) Our Council contact acknowledged that the AHLC is not, as the demarche notes, a political forum, but said there will be keen interest to know how the U.S. will "operationalize" what it views as very positive language, especially on settlements, being used by President Obama, Secretary Clinton, and Senator Mitchell.

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